

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00

SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 ACDA-19 A-01

SY-10 OPR-02 AID-20 AF-10 EUR-25 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03

EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FS-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /215 W

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P R 121438Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4554

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ECON, IS, JO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK

REF: JERUSALEM 1110 (NOTAL)

1. SITUATION IN JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK REMAINS CALM. WE HAVE SOME INDICATIONS THOUGH, THAT ARAB TENSENESS AND A NEW SELF-CONFIDENCE, COUPLED WITH ISRAELI ANGER AND CONCERN, MAY BE CAUSING A CERTAIN RAGGEDNESS IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THEM. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT ISOLATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING BOMB THROWN AT BANK LEUMI IN RAMALLAH, BUT ARAB POPULATION GENERALLY NOT DISPOSED TO CAUSE TROUBLE. ARABS CRITICAL OF US FOR APPARENTLY SUPPORTING ISRAELI DESIRE FOR RETURN TO 1967 CEASEFIRE LINES AND REPORTED ARMS RE-SUPPLY TO ISRAEL BUT NO ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS OF WHICH WE AWARE.

2. LEVEL OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN JERUSALEM NOTABLY REDUCED

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DUE TO PERSONNEL SHORTAGES FOLLOWING RESERVIST CALL-UP AND DROP IN

DEMAND FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES DUE TO FEWER TOURISTS AND BUSINESS VISITORS TO CITY AND REDUCTION IN PURCHASES BY ARAB WORKERS NOT NOW COMING TO CITY. MUNICIPALITY ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISER PALMON ESTIMATES 35,000 CALLED UP FROM JERUSALEM AND LIKE NUMBER WHO NORMALLY DO BUSINESS HERE DAILY NOW ABSENT.

3. PALMON CLAIMS ARABS PREPARED RETURN TO WORK WHEN JEWISH EMPLOYERS (ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS) HAVE ADJUSTED TO SITUATION AND CAN RESUME OPERATIONS. OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING ICRC REP AND WEST BANK ARAB CONTACTS, CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT ARAB WORKERS DETERRED BY PERSONAL SECURITY FEARS AND FEELING THAT TO RETURN NOW WOULD BE DIS-LOYAL TO ARAB CAUSE. ONE RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS SEVERAL ARABS BEATEN UP BY OTHER ARABS TO STOP THEM FROM GOING TO WORK IN ISRAEL.

4. SOME GOODS IN SHORT SUPPLY (MORE SO IN WEST BANK THAN JERUSALEM) BUT PROBLEM MAINLY DISTRIBUTION DUE PERSONNEL AND VEHICLE SHORTAGES. (SOME VEHICLES REQUISITIONED, INCLUDING SOME ARAB TRUCKS IN WEST BANK, WHICH ICRC SAYS IS TECHNICAL VIOLATION OF GENEVA CONVENTION.) CITY GOVT DISTRIBUTING FLOUR, SUGAR AND COOKING OIL TO EAST JERUSALEM AND, ACCORDING PALMON, PREPARED RESPOND TO ARAB COMPLAINTS WHICH NOW BEING MADE AFTER INITIAL HESITANCY TO VOICE THEM.

5. ISRAELI POUND QUOTED OCT 12 AT IL 15 TO ONE JORDANIAN DINAR. RATE AT BEGINNING OF WEEK WAS IL 20 TO JD 1, WHILE PRE-WAR RATE WAS ABOUT IL 13 TO JD 1. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND SOME MERCHANTS IN NABLUS AND OTHER NORTHERN WEST BANK TOWNS INSISTING ON PAYMENT IN DINARS. THIS REFLECTIVE OF GENERAL OPTIMISM AMONG WB POPULATION RE ARAB MILITARY PROSPECTS, WHICH APPARENTLY STILL FAIRLY HIGH. THERE IS DISBELIEF OF OCT 12 ISRAELI REPORTS OF SYRIAN REVERSES. ARABS SEEM TO FEEL IN ANY CASE THAT EGYPTIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN SINAI ARE BENCHMARK OF A NEW ARAB STATUS.

6. ARABIC PRESS CALLS FOR OBSERVANCE OF BLACKOUT RESTRICTIONS AND REPORTS OF PROSECUTION OF VIOLATORS INDICATES SOME NON-COOPERATION BY ARABS, ESPECIALLY IN NABLUS. COMPLIANCE IN JERUSALEM GENERALLY GOOD.

7. EARLY IN WEEK ISRAELIS GOOFED IN MAKING APPEAL FOR BLOOD
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DONORS IN CITY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM. REPORT QUICKLY SPREAD AMONG ARABS THAT ISRAELIS FORCIBLY TAKING BLOOD, LEADING SOME PARENTS TO WITHDRAW CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL DESPITE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PROTESTATIONS THAT REPORT FALSE. ICRC REP SAYS ISRAELI NOW RECOGNIZE AND GREATLY REGRET THEIR ERROR OF JUDGMENT. HE ALSO TELLS US ISRAELIS DECLINED OFFER OF RED CROSS BLOOD.
DAY

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